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CHEAP REPOSITORY.

SUNDAY READING.

THE GENERAL RESURRECTION,

PART I.

Being a Description, taken from Scripture, of some of the Events which will come to pass at the End of the World:

Sold by J. MARSHALL, (Printer to the Cheap Repository for Moral and Religious Tracts) No. 17, Queen-Street, Cheapside, and No. 4, Aldermary Church-Yard, and R. WHITE, Piccadilly, London. By S. HAZARD, at Bath; and by all Booksellers, Newsmen, and Hawkers in Town and Country.

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THE GENERAL RESURRECTION, &c.

EVER since sin entered into the world and death by sin, this earth has been a vast grave-yard, or burying-place for her children. In every age, and in every country, that sentence has been executing, "*Dust thou art, and unto dust thou shalt return.*" Mankind at first consisted only of one pair, but how inconceivably numerous are now the sons of Adam! One single nation commonly contains many millions of men, and these millions form only one generation. How many, then, must be the millions that have appeared on the earth in the long run of near six thousand years! Let imagination call up this vast army;—infants that have just lived to see the light, multitudes of the young and middle aged, and all the old and grey-headed also—Persons of all countries and of successive generations—let them all pass in review before us, and how vast and astonishing is the multitude! If the posterity of one man, Abraham, by one of his sons, was according to the language of Divine Promise, "*as the stars of heaven and as the sand by the sea-shore, innumerable,*" who can compute the multitudes that have sprung from all the different Patriarchs? Who can number the long line of children that have proceeded from Adam, and all the families of the earth that have sprung from the loins of Noah! But what is now become of this vast and inconceivable host? Alas! they are again turned into earth, their original element; they are all sunk into the grave, excepting only the present generation; and we also are going down, one after another, into that place appointed for all living. There has hardly, perhaps, been one moment of time, during the space of

many thouſand years, in which one perſon or other has not been dropping into the grave; and in ſome ſeaſons, through the ſword of war, the devouring peſtilence, or rather viſitations of God, thouſands have been mowed down at once, and have formed one undiſtinguiſhed heap of dead. The greater part of mankind beyond compariſon, are now ſleeping under ground. There lies beauty, mouldering into duſt, a prey to the vileſt worms; there lies the mean and humble beggar; and there lies the head that once wore a crown. There lie the mighty giants, the Samſons, and the Cæſars of the world. There lie the wiſe and the learned, as weak and helpleſs as the fool. There lie ſome with whom we ourſelves have converſed, and who were once our dear friends and our companions; and there lie our fathers and mothers; and there perhaps alſo lies a tender wife or huſband, a child, a ſiſter or a brother.

And ſhall they lie there always? Shall this body, that curious workmanſhip of God, "*ſo fearfully and wonderfully made*," continue always in theſe ruins, and ſhall it never be reſtored? This we know, that "*It is not a thing impoſſible with God to raiſe the dead.*" He that could firſt form our bodies out of nothing is juſt as able to form them anew, and to repair the waſtes of time and death. But what has he declared to be his intention in this caſe? for on this the matter turns; and it is a point which is fully revealed in the Scriptures. "*The hour is coming*," ſays that Sacred Book, "*When all that are in the grave ſhall hear the voice of the Son of man, and ſhall come forth; they that have done well, to the reſurrection of life; and they that have done evil, to*

the resurrection of damnation." "*Behold*," says St. Paul, "*I shew you a mystery; we shall not all sleep*," (that is, mankind will not all be sleeping in death when the day of the Resurrection comes, for there will be one generation remaining then alive upon earth;) "*but we shall all be changed; in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump, for the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*" "*For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air.*"

Let us now realise the majesty and terror of this tremendous day. When the multitudes of the dead are sleeping in the silent grave; when many perhaps of the living are thoughtless of this great event; when some men are running eagerly, as they are now, after riches and honors, and some after sensual pleasures; while they are eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage; while some are asleep in the dead of night; while some are planning future mischief; and some are in the very act of sin: while the course of nature seems to go on as usual, so that unbelieving scoffers take occasion from thence to ask, "*Where is the Promise of his Coming? for since the Fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.*"—When, perhaps, a few only are serving God, and are looking for their Savior's appearance—while the multitude in short no more expect the approaching judgment than the people of Sodom did the destruction which befel them on that fine clear morning when Lot fled away; or

than the people of the old world expected the Deluge on the day when Noah entered the ark—then ſuddenly ſhall the Heavens open over the aſtoniſhed world, and "*the trumpet ſhall ſound and the dead ſhall be raiſed incorruptible;*" for in an inſtant the ſound ſhall reach all the manſions of the dead, and "*in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye,*" the dead ſhall be raiſed, and the living ſhall be changed. This call will be as effectual in raiſing each of the ſons of men as ever that Call of Chriſt was, "*Lazarus, come forth.*" O, what a ſurpriſe will it be to the thoughtleſs world! Should this alarm burſt over our heads this moment, with what terror would it ſtrike many a one who reads this deſcription of it? How dreadful, then, will be the ſurpriſe and conſternation when this event ſhall actually come to paſs! Now, indeed, there are many who ſtop their ears: Now, though the voice of Mercy calls, though Reaſon pleads, and Conſcience warns, yet multitudes will not hear; but then there ſhall be no one among the millions of mankind that ſhall be able to diſobey the ſummons, for the living ſhall ſtart and be changed, and the dead riſe at the ſound.

But for what purpoſe ſhall they riſe? It is in order that they may come to judgment. "*For we muſt all appear before the Judgment-ſeat of Chriſt, and muſt give an account of the things done in the body, whether they be good or whether they be evil.*"—*And theſe ſhall go away into everlaſting puniſhment, and the righteous into life eternal.*"—"*And I ſaw* (ſays the Apoſtle) *the dead, ſmall and great, ſtand before God; and the books were opened, and the dead were judged out of thoſe things which were written in the books according to their works; and the ſea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and*

hell (that is the place of departed spirits) *delivered up the dead which were in them, and they were judged every man according to their works,—and whosoever was not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.*" —*And I saw* (continues the same Apostle) *a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away. And I heard a great voice out of heaven, saying, Behold the Tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying, for the former things are passed away.—And He that sat on the Throne said, Behold I make all things new.* In like manner, we are told in another place, that "*the heavens and the earth are but kept in store until the day of destruction and perdition of ungodly men*;" and that when this "*great and terrible day of the Lord*" shall come, then "*the very elements shall melt with fervent heat—the earth also, and all the works thereof shall be burnt up*"—"*the heavens shall depart as a scroll*"—"*they all shall wax old as doth a garment, and as a vesture shall be changed*;" and there shall then be "*new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.*" Well might the Apostle say, "*Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought we to be in all holy conversation and godliness!*"

There are many things spoken of in Scripture that shall follow the grand Scene of the Resurrection, which remain to be described; but we shall speak in this place only of one further point, and that is of the person who is to be our Judge. It will be Jesus Christ, "*for the Father,*" (says the Scripture) "*judgeth no man, for God hath committed all judg-*

ment to the Son, because he is the Son of Man." "*This same Jesus,*" (said the angels just after his Resurrection) "*which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.*" Once he was "*despised and rejected of men;*" "*he was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before his shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth;*" he was "*mocked, and buffeted, and spit upon;*" he was himself arraigned before the bar of Pontius Pilate, and he was hung upon the Cross, as if he was the vilest malefactor, the whole multitude having joined in crying, Crucify him, Crucify him.—But now, "*Behold he cometh in the clouds, and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him, and all nations of the earth shall wail because of him.*" *For the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God, and obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:* now also he is "*come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe.*" Some men think that to forget or to disobey Christ is no great matter; they are good, as they call it, in their own way, and therefore they are satisfied. But such men should be reminded, that it is not at the bar of their own reason, nor even at the bar merely of their own consciences that they are to be tried, but that they are to be tried at the bar of Jesus Christ. "*The word that I have spoken to you,*" (said our Savior to the Pharisees) "*it shall judge you at the last day.*" Let us further enquire, then, what Christ hath spoken to us; and what the Scripture in general hath said respecting the manner of our trial on the day of judgment, for this is the

way in which alone we can truly know whether we shall be acquitted or condemned.

A N H Y M N

On the Second Coming of Christ.

LO! He comes with clouds defcending,
He that was for finners ſlain;
While the hoſt of Saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train!

Every eye ſhall now behold him;
Every creature bend the knee:
They that mock'd him too and ſold him,
Pierc'd and nail'd him to the tree.

See, the Angels all adore him!
Hark, the trump proclaims the day!
All the nations ſtand before him,
Heaven and earth are fled away!

Come, thou Savior long expected,
Sit on thine eternal throne!
Thou that waſt by man rejected,
Claim the kingdom for thine own.

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END OF PART I.

To which will be added, Part II. or, The Day of Judgment; being a Continuation of the ſame Subject, wherein a Deſcription will be given of the Manner in which the Scriptures ſhew that all the World ſhall be judged.